



Heavenly decor

A new spin-off of German rug maker Rug Star promises to make unique, high-quality carpets available to Beijing consumers of modest means.

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New approach to storytelling

Ruth Kanner's five-day workshop is teaching a new way to communicate through community theater.



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From Taipei to Tibet

Zhang Shuhao's discovery of his dead brother's travel diary inspires him to make his own bicycle trip to the Roof of the World in *Kora*, an award-winning film by Du Jiayi.

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Beijing Treaty signed to protect audiovisual performers

By Bao Chengrong

An international treaty to protect the rights of audiovisual performers was finalized in Beijing on June 26.

The Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances was signed by 48 countries.

The achievement, which came after seven days of negotiation by 721 representatives, marked the last day of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Diplomatic Conference.

The Beijing Treaty strengthens the rights of audiovisual performers, such as film actors, by enabling them to share with producers the proceeds from the international distribution of their works.

Performers were also given rights to control the use of their likeness and voice.

"Despite the differences among the organizations around the world, the film industry in the audio-visual sector as a whole united to see a common value in the performances of actors and other audio-visual performers," said Francis Gurry, general director of WIPO.

Foreign Ministry spokes-

man Hong Lei said the treaty would greatly boost international cooperation to protect intellectual property rights and further advance China's development in this area.

As the first international intellectual property treaty in China, the Beijing Treaty built on the Roman Treaty of 1961 and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) of 1996, which prohibited the broadcast and duplication of performance without express written permission from their producer.

The Beijing Treaty explicitly adds protections for actors of video works, said Wang Yefei, deputy director of the Beijing Copyright Bureau.

Wang Qian, China's delegate to the conference, said that video recording facilities were luxuries in 1960s, and were concentrated in the hands of radio and television institutes, as well as film companies.

With the popularization of video recording technology, performers' rights were no longer adequately guaranteed by the old treaties.

Wang said that according to



Yan Xiaohong, Chinese deputy director of Intellectual Property Rights Protection, holds the newly signed Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances. Xinhua Photo

the new treaty, signatory states would be responsible for protecting the rights of their own performers, as well as those in other signatory states.

Chinese performers highly praised the treaty.

Opera singer Dai Yuqiang said performers have a right to every video in which they appear. Respecting their rights is a way to recognize their knowledge and effort, he said.

Actor Yang Lixin said the treaty would inspire innova-

tors to make new works and cherish their existing works. Jackie Chan said he would be willing to appear as a spokesperson to promote the concept of performers' rights.

The treaty will be used as a guide in drafting a new amendment to China's copyright law.

The law, passed in 1990, has been amended twice. The third amendment would cite Article 12 of the treaty, which covers compensation of per-

formers and allows them to gain attribution through their contracts.

Beijing is hoping to reshape its image and become a "copyright capital," said Feng Junke, general director of the Beijing News Publication Bureau.

More than 2.38 million copyrighted works were registered in Beijing as of May, accounting for 80 percent of creations nationwide.

About 250,000 works are registered in China each year.

Sidelights

IP convention spooks capital's pirates

The capital has been struck by a desperate shortage of pirated DVDs, clothes and handbags.

The city's popular DVD stores, usually stacked with 10-yuan copies of new releases, have been stripped bare.

Shopkeepers at the Silk Market, with 1,500 stalls, have replaced walls of Polo

shirts and Abercrombie & Fitch jumpers with "I Love Beijing" T-shirts. The trade in fake international brands has been confined to the trunks of cars parked outside.

"Come back on the 30th," said one shop assistant at the Silk Market, who normally stocks fake Polo shirts.

The empty shelves were

blamed on the World Intellectual Property Convention, hosted in the city this week.

Unlike the notorious Silk Market, store owners near the Beijing Zoo were carefully picking the labels off what looked like designer dresses and storing them in bags.

Labels for Prada, Gucci, Hermes, Lanvin, Chloe, Given-

chy and Diane von Furstenberg were bagged and stored behind the counter, ready to be stitched back on after the delegates return home.

A customer returned to buy the same black Phillip Lim dress she bought two weeks earlier, for 360 yuan rather than the 4,000 yuan advertised at the official outlet.

But protect and respect for intellectual property is a must, said Liu Qi, Politburo member and the city's Party Secretary.

"We will grasp this opportunity to further strengthen intellectual property and build Beijing as the first city of IP," Liu said.

(Agencies/Beijing Today)

Farmers' markets may be required in new communities

By Jidong Zhong

A new bill being considered by the Legal Affairs Office of the municipal government would require all new Beijing communities to include a farmers' market in their supporting infrastructure.

Markets would have to have a floor area equivalent to 2 percent of the community's total. Existing communities would need to erect a farmers' market within a kilometer of the area.

Farmers' markets are where most urban residents buy their vegetables, fruit, raw meats, grains and oil. Products are typically

fresher and cheaper than those sold in grocery stores. That farmers' produce is not packaged or sealed makes them a green alternative to supermarkets.

Although such markets are popular, there are too few to serve the city's population.

There are 298 registered farmers' markets, according to a *Beijing Youth Daily* report. These markets account for 40 percent of all produce sold in the capital.

The lack of farmers' markets is a tough issue for residents of old communities. Some of the existing markets are being used for



Farmers' markets are a must for every residential community. CFP Photo

unrelated purposes.

Under the old policy

introduced in 2006, farmers' market should have 20

square meters for every 1,000 patrons.

However, the new draft has raised this number to 200 square meters, which means many new markets will need to be built.

The draft also included phrasing that specifies that farmers' markets are owned by the government. The government will ensure the quality of the produce being sold. Samples will be tested on a regular basis.

The bill will be open to online public debate until July 5. Those interested in this issue are at gov.cn or beijing.gov.cn.

Social network in struggle

Sina Weibo launches paid service to boost profits



A Sina Weibo booth at an expo CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

Internet giant Sina's Weibo platform has become one of the most successful Twitter-like microblogs in the world, with more than 320 mil-

lion users.

But Weibo is not a charity.

Last week, the company made the kind of "bold move" even Twitter is unlikely to follow – charging users for

premium features.

With netizens used to getting everything for free, it's unclear how much Sina can expect to profit from its new features.

Bold or brave?

Jaffrey Bass, an English teacher from the US, was hesitant to open a Sina Weibo account last year – the 35-year-old was already splitting his time between Facebook and Twitter.

Bass' interest in Chinese and social media won him over in the end.

"Hello China. Let's get to know each other," was his first post.

For Bass, who is studying Chinese, joining conversations on Sina Weibo helps him to engage locals – especially his students.

"It's exciting, especially when my followers can understand my Chinese," he said.

Like his students, the first thing Bass does when he wakes up is to check his Weibo. "I check in at locations so my students and friends can track my whereabouts on Weibo," he said.

His attitude explains why an increasing number of people, young and old, home and abroad, are using the service. Sina Weibo had 325 million users late May, among which 30 million were active.

But in spite of this enormous user base, Sina Weibo is bleeding.

Sina announced first quarter net losses of \$13.7 million (87 million yuan); although advertising revenue jumped 9 percent, the gains were outpaced by the rising cost of running Weibo.

The only relief to the executives' panic came on June 18, when developers announced a plan to add paid premium features to the Weibo service.

For a monthly fee of 10 yuan, Sina Weibo users can buy a VIP account, which allows them to add personalized pages, post by voice and enjoy increased security, according to the announcement on the website.

Other features include high-speed access, a VIP label and priority for recommendations.

A spokesperson for Sina Weibo declined to comment on the move, but industry analysts called it "bold."

It's certainly territory that Twitter would rather not explore.

"In a country where people expect everything on the Internet to be free, charging fees can prove fatal," said Steven Kang, an analyst at Oriental Securities in Beijing.

Kang said Sina could be courting death if it pushes the commercial option too hard.

"The firm still has to sort out many problems, like the conflict between Weibo and its portal site in attracting ads," he said.

But Erin Yao, research director of Qingxue consultancy, said it was a smart decision.

"The social network itself can be tough to monetize," Yao said. "If you attempt too much, you risk tarnishing the brand. But if you can't turn the traffic into something with commercial value, then the product is unsustainable."

Yao said Sina must be confident of its market position to offer a paid service. Other Web giants such as Tencent and Renren offered paid premium memberships.

Sohu Weibo, one of Sina's lead competitors, will never introduce a paid option, the company's Vice President Fang Gang said.

Revenue model doubts

Yao said Sina's latest move looks like preparation for a spinoff.

Last April, Sina introduced a new logo and switched domains for its microblogging platform. "It's an apparent declaration of independence," Yao said.

In a recent meeting of the country's IT giants, Sina's CEO Charles Cao said Weibo is more than just an affiliated unit under the Sina brand.

There have been whispers of Weibo.cn being listed publicly. Korean consultant Mirae Asset estimated Weibo's value to be \$3 billion – a third of Sina's total market value.

Figures from local analyst iResearch show that Sina Weibo accounts for more than 56 percent of the domestic microb-

log market.

Last April, Weibo.cn upgraded its corporate product and opened a commercial platform to make money through interactive ads, social networking games and digital content.

Yao said Weibo ads have an advantage over traditional advertising channels. "Social network ads can be tailored to users' interests, and thus have a more precise effect on the market," she said.

In its latest commercial platform, Enterprise Weibo 2.0, companies can open free corporate accounts for their marketing and information needs. Roughly 130,000 companies operate corporate Weibo accounts.

"The new platform is appealing because it can lower the threshold for firms seeking to leverage the Internet for marketing," Yao said.

For Sina, these cooperate users are all potential advertisers.

Yao said the platform is especially attractive to companies seeking to enter the China market. "I think Weibo could help foreign firms connect with the Chinese community. The Chinese market is huge," she said.

Sina Weibo seems to share this idea. The company opened a branch in Japan last year to help restaurants and hotels market themselves to Chinese users.

"The agency helps Japanese businesses translate their microblog posts into Chinese," Herman Yu, Sina chief financial officer, told a recent press conference in Beijing.

"That's an example of where we are really trying to expand our resources and be able to go to non-Chinese speaking populations," Yu added.

Yao, however, said Weibo can be a core platform to tie together Sina's existing businesses, and one to strengthen them.

But the microblog's profits may grow slower than expected, Yao said.

It will take time to tell whether Sina's new premium plan will bear fruit.

Starved businesses told to seek growth abroad

By Serena Qiu

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the nation pledged to target foreign markets at the 7th APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Technology Conference and Fair (APEC SMETC), held in Chengdu from June 22 to 25.

The event was intended to help small business owners enhance their competitiveness by expanding into the international market.

SMEs have been struggling since 2011 due to waning demand, a steep rise in production costs, scarce funding and poor branding strategies.

"SMEs have played an irreplaceable role in raising fiscal revenue, creating jobs and improving the structure of the economy," said Minister of Industry and IT Miao Wei at a seminar during the conference. "The government is committed to helping them out of their current predicament."

SMEs account for 99 percent of all business, contribute to 60 percent of the total GDP and employ nearly 80 percent of the Chinese workforce, he said.

With the overheated domestic market and government calls to go abroad, SMEs have no option but to explore the international market, said Liu Pingjuan, deputy director of the Zhejiang SMEs Association and founder of Chuang-e Kitchenware.

Exports by SMEs in low-tech industries were hit hard by the global recession. The firms that have survived will need to be restructured and managed in a way that targets international expansion.

"But we have no experience in international branding. Our limited contact with foreign markets has not cultivated the kind of talents required to go abroad," Liu said.

Liu's company is working with a consulting team at Aisurf International Corp (AIC) to plan its foreign expansion.

When Chinese enterprises go abroad, they face an environment very unlike their home market, Liu said.

"It's often difficult for SMEs to set up a value chain necessary to establish their products or services in the market, and to deliver their promised value to customers," said Jack Wynn, managing director of AIC China.

"Individualism is the secret ingredient to successful worldwide branding and marketing," Wynn said. "China SMEs lack distinction and creativity in their current branding strategy."

Wynn suggested that enterprises build a direct relationship with the foreign market by establishing a sales office or production unit abroad.

Reviving opera

Global experts in Beijing discuss classical opera's development

By Bao Chengrong

Representatives from 17 countries gathered in Beijing last week to discuss how to attract more people to watch classical opera. Three round-table meetings were held, mainly focusing on stage patterns, publicity strategies and methods for cultivating audiences.

Rainer Karlitschek, scenic advisor of Bavaria National Opera in Germany, said that every country and every city had to choose what was suitable for them. For instance, *Tosca*, a co-produced opera, was presented in a very classical way in Munich, yet it was modernized for New York audiences.

Qian Shijin, artistic director of Shanghai Grand Theater, said that a modern version of *Opera Ring* was widely popular in Shanghai. At first he worried about how audiences would react, but he was very pleasantly surprised.

The choice between classical and modern should be based on the audience's



Global experts from 17 countries discuss how to attract more people to attend operas at the 2012 NCPA World Theater Forum.

Photo provided by NCPA

familiarity with the show, the group said. Those who have never seen a particular opera before are more likely to be confused when watching a modernized version, said Speight Jenkins, general director of Seattle Opera.

Khushroo Suntook, chairman of The National Center for the Performing Arts in

Mumbai, agreed with Speight's. For Indians who grow up with watching DVDs of classical versions of *The Lady of the Camellias*, it may be hard for them to accept new versions when they see it live for the first time.

Issam El-Mallah, director of the Royal Opera House in Oman, suggested that operas

mix foreign and local music.

On the topic of publicity and dissemination, opera houses in China, Hungary, Germany and the US have been successful using new media.

One of the hottest points of disagreement was whether high-definition versions of operas should be made available. Qian of Shanghai Grand

Theater was firmly on the side of "yes," encouraged by the success of a broadcast of *The Magic Flute*.

For older audiences, paper advertisements work, but to attract younger audiences, social media such as Facebook and Twitter need to be utilized, said Christina Scheppelmann, artistic director of the Washington National Opera.

Scheppelmann said it's important to hook people on opera from a young age. In Washington, a special school was founded to provide musical and performance training. The National Opera set up a special program to support young artists.

To help younger audiences better understand opera, the Seattle Opera has arranged a dialogue between producers and audiences.

Children's operas are also an option. The Vienna National Opera produces 40 operas for children every year, and several children's books have been adapted into plays.

Israeli theater director brings new representation of storytelling

By Bao Chengrong

In a room at the Cultural Palace of Dongcheng District, two "actors" communicate by speaking numbers in different tones and frequency. In this way, they transmit their inner emotions free from possible misunderstandings caused by language.

This was one of the interactive activities on the first day of Ruth Kanner's five-day workshop.

Kanner, an Israeli theater director, toured Beijing last week as part of the Third Nanluogu Xiang Theater Festival. Her workshop aimed to bring a new representation of literature to community stages.

The workshop draw 25 participants, many of them college students, participated. They were told to run around and asked to relax — by shaking heads and hands.

The next part was number communication. Each person was given a number, such as a birthday, an ID or telephone number, and asked to "perform" it to someone else.

One middle-aged man was praised for his technique of gradually saying the numbers



Kanner's group's rehearsing *At Sea* in Penghao Theater.

faster and louder. Kanner said he gave off the vivid impression of an aggressive man.

Next, Kanner asked everyone to recall a fearful event. Lisa, a young woman, began sobbing. She very slowly murmured the word "lonely."

Kanner asked listeners to pay careful attention to every storyteller's expressions and body movements to really derive the message out of words. Later, she asked listeners to tell of an event using sounds and through hand, mouth and foot gestures.

"They don't need to use their logical thinking," Kanner said. "I want them to bring their inner emotion to the stage. We try to create an

ongoing process of searching, asking and exploring, aspiring to doubt obvious truths and to touch hidden sensitivities."

Kanner's group will soon perform *At Sea* with the methods they've learned. One of the stories they'll interpret is that of a drowning man fighting with waves.

"The story brings the person to the edge," Kanner said. "And only when you are on the edge, afraid of losing your life, you start to realize what the important things are."

Kanner began her career in theater production in the early '80s. She started her own group in 1998, featuring six regular performers and sev-



Photos provided by Penghao Theater

eral guests.

Her group has produced 11 plays. She is an associate professor at the Department of Theater Arts of Tel Aviv University in Israel and a guest director of Theater X-Cai in Japan.

Her program, Israeli Storytelling, is a theatrical lecture that has been presented in many places, including Prague, Wrocław, New Delhi, New York, London, Wales, Zagreb and Jerusalem.

French music day simmers on summer solstice

By Liu Xiaochen

Activities for Fete de la Musique, a day for French music organized by the French Youth Chamber of Commerce and supported by the French embassy, were held in Beijing on June 21, the summer solstice.

More than a dozen rock, jazz, reggae and hip-hop performances, all free, were held in bars around the Drum and Bell Towers. Participating bands included SUBS, The Amazing Insurance Salesmen, Mademoiselle et son Orchestre, The K and Ajinai.

Fete de la Musique began in France 30 years ago. Today, it's observed in every city in France and more than a hundred countries.

"In France, most of the bands and artists do their performances on the street. But in Beijing, they are in bars," said Chloe Cosmidis, one of the organizers.

Xiao Fei, lead singer of the band Carambola, performed a folk solo at Beiluo Cafe, owned by his friend. "My friend just asked me if I wanted to attend this, and I agreed," he said. "I was very happy to have a chance to participate in music day, and I hope all the participants had a good time drinking with me."

Lulu Galore, leader of the jazz band Lulu Galore and Sweet Leaf, was invited by her friend to perform at Modernista.

"To me, music should be free for everyone," she said.

"The reason I run this live house is to popularize music and let more people feel it in their hearts," said Li Chi, owner of MAO Live House. "It's



VHR band performs at MAO Live House.

Photo by Liu Xiaochen

not a loss for me to take one day out of the year to do something like this."

Volunteers worked in front of bars, distributing leaflets, while others took photos.

"Our work is to propagate music day, including through websites like Douban and Weibo," said one volunteer outside MAO Live House.

Participants also gave suggestions for how to improve the event in the future.

"I walked around several bars and found that foreigners were all in one bar and Chinese were all in another. They hardly communicate," said a participant named Gong, 24. "Actually, the organizers need to do more

promotion because most of my friends don't know about this, even though they like music. This is an international activity that everyone in Beijing should be aware of."

Another participant, Xu, 27, said she will choose one bar and one kind of musical style to listen to if there is a music day next year. "I hope this will be a continuous activity that China can hold every year in the future."

Cosmidis agreed.

"I hope China can hold it continually without our organization," she said. "For music lovers, this is not a difficult thing."

"I hope people can spend more time to enjoy live music instead of just

drinking, because live music is more lively and humanistic," Galore said.

Xiao Fei said he would like to perform again if there is another music day.

"This activity is very interesting," Li of MAO Live House said. "If one day all the bars in Beijing were free for a special music day, it would mean that our efforts today paid off."

"I think the music atmosphere in China today isn't good enough. This kind of activity, where performers play music they write themselves, is meaningful for today's market."

People could also participate in a photography competition that awarded small prizes.

US relaxes nonimmigrant visa policy

By Liu Xiaochen

The US Embassy recently announced that it will relax its non-immigrant visa policy to meet Chinese demand for travel, business and student visas.

The Embassy of the US held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopened consular facility at the US Embassy's old address on Guanghua Lu. This place will be the embassy's second consular facility.

The relaxation policy is called "Mission China." The embassy processed more than 1 million nonimmigrant applications last year, a 34 percent increase over the previous year.

The number of applications has risen more than 40 percent this year compared to the same period in 2011. Nearly 90 percent have been approved.

There is currently a pilot program in place that waives the interview for qualified applicants worldwide. Results so far have been positive, the embassy said.

More than 20,000 applicants have renewed their visas through



Janice Jacobs, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, answers journalists' questions after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo by Liu Xiaochen

this program since it was initiated.

"It's possible for US visas to be

extended to five years for Chinese citizens," said Janice Jacobs, Assis-

tant Secretary for Consular Affairs.

Applicants in China wait an average of eight days for a visa interview.

Jacobs who echoed President Barack Obama's hopes that applicants from all countries can get visas within three weeks.

From January to May, Mission China adjudicated more than 45,000 student visas, a 30 percent increase over the same period last year.

"Under the influence of these policies, the number of students who are going to study in the US will surge," said Amanda, 25, who studied at an American college. "A few of my Chinese friends in school all have a hunch that studying in the US for them won't be as hard as it was for us."

More consular offices will be opened around China to accommodate this policy.

"In the future, we will expand or open new consular facilities in Shanghai and Chongqing," Jacobs said. "Wuhan will open its consular facilities in the middle of 2014."

Eco-farm provides agricultural life experience

By Bao Chengrong

Zhao Bin, 48, used to be a general manager of an IT company in Beijing, but his dream was always to own a farm. In 2007, he made that dream come true, though under unforeseen circumstances.

The year prior, Beijing banned the ownership of large dogs within Fifth Ring Road, forcing Zhao to relocate his two dogs. He ended up buying a farm in a wetlands park in Hefei, Anhui Province.

The "ecological farm," called Binhe, is 333 hectares, and the vast majority of it is used to raise animals.

"My dream is to make the farm a home for old people," Zhao said. "It may help to alleviate the burden on one-child families."

Zhao uses a community supported agriculture (CSA) model to manage his animal breeding business. The model was originally created for plants, but Zhao applied it to his animals. His clients have since built long-term business relationships with him.

Zhao also opens his farm to visitors, who often stay a week or two to experience rural life. They're asked to do simple tasks like turning soil and reaping crops. All the meals



Zhao Bin's ecological farm welcomes volunteers.

Photos provided by Zhao Bin

they eat are from the farm.

During their spare time, Zhao teaches them how to make dumplings. Recently, a group of volunteers showed up from France and England, and Zhao taught them Chi-

nese as well.

Zhao said he was happy to see foreigners are now interested in his farm. A 21-year-old Finnish man impressed Zhao the most. He rode overnight from Beijing to Hefei

and eagerly began working upon arrival.

That day, an enclosure broke and many pigs escaped. Zhao was shocked when he found the new guy hammering pegs into the ground to



Zhao Bin, a former IT company manager, is a farmer in Hefei.

rebuild the fence.

"I hammered three, but already felt tired," Zhao said. The Finnish man hammered 20.

Zhao said he currently is trying to recruit more volunteers. The farm once had more than 20 members, but only three remain, and they are all around 50 years old.

Although Zhao's farm has Internet, a lot of people are unable to bear the loneliness, he said.

He's determined to make the farm his life's work, though it's been difficult recently making a profit.

Still, as long as it doesn't lose money, Zhao said he'll be OK. After all, he has his health: He hasn't been sick for five years, owing to the healthy food he grows, he said. Before, he went to the doctor at least once a year.

Cricket club brings sport to Beijing

By Liu Xiaochen

A cricket match being billed as the 2012 Beijing International Cricket Sixes will be held by Beijing Cricket Club (BCC) this weekend. Four teams, Kremlin XI, First XI, Daredevils and Phoenix (the defending champs), will compete.

BCC was formed in 2006. It aims to organize matches throughout China, and welcomes all touring teams interested in cricket with Chinese characteristics.

The club's core members began playing in Beijing in the early 2000s. As their group grew, they realized they could form an actual club.

Every weekend, BCC runs a Santa Fe League and a Twenty20 League, which has regular weekend matches. The teams also play in tournaments throughout China.

There is a biannual series against Shanghai Cricket Club for the China Cup, which was first contested in 2007.

The club's goal is to develop the sport in China and introduce it to as many people as possible.

The organizers also want to be a regular presence at Asian International Cricket Sixes tournaments. BCC's first appearance in this event was at the Shanghai Sixes in 2006.

When: June 29 - July 1

Where: Dulwich College, Beijing Legend Garden Campus, 89 Shoudu JichangLu, Shunyi District

Tel: 6454 9126

Email: scandia.ian@gmail.com



Cricket, popular in the UK and other commonwealth countries, remains a niche sport in China. CFP Photo

Plan to reduce minimum stay for foreign workers

A new draft law is currently in discussion which proposes shortening the minimum stay for foreigners holding work certificates from 180 days to 90 days.

The new law was submitted to the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the country's top legislature, on June 26 for its third reading.

It stipulates that foreigners should obtain valid identity documents when they are working in China, and any unit or personnel should not employ foreigners without valid certificates.

For foreigners holding visas with a maximum stay of 180 days, the holders should hand in documents to government departments above county-level to apply for a longer stay.

The draft law also allows local governments of bordering regions to promulgate exit and entry regulations in line with agreements signed between China and neighbor-



CFP Photo

ing countries.

The draft law was designed with the aim of curbing the

illegal entry, stay and employment of foreigners and stipulating harsher punishments

for people who enter or exit the country illegally.

(Agencies)

Concert series brings classical music to forefront

By Jidong Zhong

The National Center for the Performing Arts will host a series of classical concerts from July 1 to 8 – performed by renowned symphony orchestras such as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Beijing Symphony Orchestra and China NCPA Concert Hall Orchestra.

The event, called Roam About Classics Concert Series, has been hosted every July since 2009 and aims to make classical music more available to Beijing audience.

Featured pieces include the *Overture to William Tell*



CFP Photo

by Rossini, *Valtva River* from *My Motherland* by Smetana and the *1812 Overture* and excerpts from *Eugene Onegin*

by Tchaikovsky.

What's special about the Roam About the Classics concert series is the activities outside the concert hall. Big screens at eight plazas around the city, including The Place, Beijing Railway and Raffles City, will live-stream the concerts.

Where: National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 1-8, 7:30-9:15 pm

Tel: 6655 0000

Cost: starting from 80 yuan

Chaoyang Park introducing new activities

By Zhong Jidong

The popular outdoor hangout Ocean Beach Carnival in Chaoyang Park will now feature a mini-ocean where visitors can play beach soccer and beach volleyball and watch performances by marine animals.

Chaoyang Park features sports facilities such as soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, and an indoor badminton course. All can be rented by the person or hour.

Where: Chaoyang Park, 1 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 16 – September 2

Weekdays: 9 am – 9:30 pm, 80 yuan

Weekends and holidays: 9 am – 9:30 pm, 120 yuan; children under 1.2 meters tall can enter for free under an adult's supervision.

Tel: 6595 3490



Photo by Wei Tong

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

Where can I get a skin moisturizer that is thick and doesn't have any strong fragrance or smell?

You can find Neutrogena at many Watson's, or Cetaphil at high-end supermarkets like B.H.G., on the ground floor of World Summit or Sanlitun Village.

I am looking for gluten-free food. Any suggestions?

You can find gluten-free pastries at the Sweet Spot under Guomao Shopping Mall, or you can try to get gluten-free pasta and honey corn flakes from Jenny Lou's.

In terms of local restaurants, it's really hard to find gluten-free ones, as that's a concept few Chinese people are familiar with.

Where are the good places to look for apartments? I have visited some real estate agents, but I'm not happy with what they shown. I'm a student and my budget is only 1,500 yuan per month.

If you don't mind having a roommate or living farther from downtown, you can manage an OK apartment at that price. If you want to live in a convenient location, the room might be small and broken. You could consider living in a basement – just ask building managers.

Where can I find quality oil-paper umbrellas to use as decoration?

You can find them at Ruoshuitang at 144 Gulou Dong Dajie or Baigongfang, 12 Guangming Lu, near the east gate of the Temple of Heaven.

I want to repaint my apartment. Do you know where I can get nonviolent organic compounds (VOC) paints?

There are a few brands like Nippon with little VOC emission available in home and decor stores like Juranzhijia. A brand named Auro is recommended among local organic groups – it has non-VOC paints. You can find them from Taobao.

(By Wei Ying)

Indian art could be the

By Zhou Xu

It's easy to find spicy curry and belly dancing in Beijing, but Indian art is a little more rare.

Indian Highway, an international touring exhibition, aims to change that with its current stop at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA).

Connecting with China

Beijing is the fifth stop for *Indian Highway*, which debuted at the Serpentine Gallery in London in 2008 before continuing on through Oslo, Lyon and Rome.

On this stop, the exhibition will be promoting cultural exchange between India and China, said Philip Tinari, the director of UCCA.

The exhibition's title ties together many kinds of "highways," from the paved variety that connects rural villages and urban cities to the pipelines that power the Internet, all of which have helped India to become an emerging power of the new millennium.

But in spite of the nation's rapid growth, its vibrant creative scene has been slow to receive recognition in China.

Like China, India has been through tremendous change during the last few decades as information reshapes social and cultural patterns. The growth has fueled population mobility, as rural migrants flood into urban centers to seek work.

"What Indian artists particularly want to depict are roads and highways, which connect cities internally, and also connect them to other cities and rural areas," said Hans Ulrich Obrist, vice director of Serpentine Gallery.

Contemporary Indian artists, like their peers in China, are preoccupied with memory and change.

Broad subjects

Highway highlights 27 artists who have made their mark on the international art world, as well as up-and-coming artists such as Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Tejal Shah, Sudarshan Shetty, Amar Kanwar, Jitish Kallat, Nikhil Chopra and Dayanita Singh.

The more than 60 works on exhibition include paintings, photos, sculptures and film and video installations, most of which explore socio-political issues such as environmentalism, religious sectarianism, gender, sexuality and class.

One of special note is Subodh Gupta's "Take off Your Shoes and Wash Your Hands," a 25-meter-long stainless steel installation of cooking utensils arranged on shelves. Its message speaks to the everyday life of India's middle class.

Artists Sudarshan Shetty and Dayanita Singh were invited to visit Beijing for the exhibition.

Singh, a photographer, said she was excited about her first trip to Beijing. Her collection *Continuous Cities* shows the subtle relationships



Hans Ulrich Obrist, vice director of Serpentine Gallery

between family members and social groups in the cities she has been to.

Installation artist Shetty is known for his 3.5-meter-tall movable *No Title* (from *Listen Outside This House*), a piece made of wood and synthetic glass in which fragile symbols of India's temples interact with everyday constructions.

The artists said they have had few opportunities to interact with their peers in China. Most contemporary artists in India prefer to promote their work in Europe.

"China seems further away," Shetty said. Singh agreed, saying he felt very removed from the Chinese art scene.

Singh said she was surprised at the quality of China's exhibition centers, and said they gave each artist much more space than the galleries in Europe.

Next stop, Indian art?

While many who visited the exhibition said they were excited to learn about artists like Subodh Gupta, there was an underlying message that the art scene is changing.

Last spring, UCCA auctioned off its Chinese art collection and began buying Indian art. In fact, two pieces from its own collection were displayed at the exhibition.

"For the past few years, we have been focusing on three places: China, India and Middle East. We have been devoting a lot of our time and energy to India and the Middle East," said Julia Peyton-Jones, director of Serpentine Gallery.

She said she sees India as a natural center for contemporary art due to its rapid growth and its social and economic freedoms.

"We do have an interest in Indian art, but it is not replacing our enthusiasm for Chinese art," Tinari said.

Ulrich Obrist, the director of Serpentine Gallery, said he sees a definite shift toward India.

"I have followed Chinese art for nearly 20 years, but have only followed Indian art for five years. Actually, any big show should contain both Chinese and Indian art," he said.



Jitish Kallat, *Baggage Claim*, Courtesy of artist and ARNDT Berlin



Nalini Malin, *Tales of Good and Evil*, Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Lelong

8 feet x 11

next trend



Photos provided by Liu Zhenghua



2 feet, Hema Upadhyay, 2009



Artwork by Sudarshan Shetty

“ Making a film is not that hard. It is just about a bunch of people realizing a dream. ”

From trash to treasure

A journey shared by all



Director Du Jiayi

Zhang Shuhao is a 24-year-old college student in Taiwan who stumbles upon the travel journal of his older brother who died during a trip to Lhasa.

The discovery inspires Zhang to complete his brother's wish and bicycle from Lijiang to Lhasa. The 1,800-kilometer route from Yunnan to Tibet is very difficult, and requires 60 days of non-stop riding.

"It takes even professional riders half a month to complete the trip, because one has to adapt to the changing altitude and atmospheric pressure in the jagged mountains," says Li Xiaochuan, an experienced rider in the film.

At first, Zhang sticks out like a sore thumb among the locals. Early on he is cheated by a local ID card fraud. He uses the wrong pants for his ride and has serious pains in his crotch after the first day of riding. As the film progresses, he gradually blends in.

But his early mishaps are minor compared to when Zhang rides off the edge of a cliff. Other

By Niu Chen

Kora by Du Jiayi was the winner of the Award for Best Artistic Contributions at the 24th Tokyo International Film Festival. Its story is adapted from a travelogue published in 2008 that records a Taiwanese youth's trip to Lhasa by bicycle.

near-death experiences include a serious case of food poisoning and an attack by a pack of Tibetan mastiffs.

Zhang finally reaches the highest point of the Sichuan-Tibet line, 5,020 meters above sea level, and scatters colorful papers obtained from a Tibetan Buddhist.

In the end, he returns to Taiwan to continue his normal life, but the unforgettable journey has changed him.

Du Jiayi, the director, called *Kora* a bildungsroman. Viewers come close to the actor, and through him experience a shared journey of growth. As a symbol, Zhang resonates with most viewers.

Du was born in 1977 in Shanghai, where he learned the art of storytelling by watching Shaoxing Opera with his mother. He has never studied film and only completed elementary school.

"Making a film is not that hard. It is just about a bunch of people realizing a dream," he said. "For me, the hard part is knowing what I really want out of it."

Filming *Kora* sent Du on a journey of his own. To complete the film, he closed his cafe, saying that such a business can be opened any time in his life, but now was the only time to make this film.

Before *Kora*, film came first in the director's life. Today he finds family more important. "I used to avoid expressing my feelings to my family. Since coming back from Tibet, the way we get along has changed," Du said.

From the Taipei 101 Tower to the base camp at Qomolangma, *Kora* is a rare moment for the Chinese film industry.

"When I am 60, I'll be able to brag out about this film to my grandson," Du said. "Maybe I won't have filmed many other movies, but at least I'll have this one!"

Du recently released a new short film titled *2032: The Future We Expect*. It was produced with the cooperation of UNDP China and Zhou Xun Studio. The film can be found on UNDP's Sina Weibo at weibo.com/undpchina.





News for kids, by kids.

No one knows better than Chinese parents how the future depends on children: most spare no effort to be “wolf dads” and “tiger moms” to send their children down the path to success.

As part of its commitment to young readers, *Beijing Today*, together with *Middle School Times* and *Beijing Children's Weekly*, is beginning a weekly education report to share the views and events happening in the lives of Chinese youth.

What are they saying?



Olympic Math: yes or no?

Over the past several years, every authority from the Ministry of Education to local educational bodies has called on parents to stop sending their children to Olympic Math sessions.

Few seem to have heard. If anything, more students than ever are attending this extracurricular.

This May, a government inspection team in Xi'an ordered an Olympic Math cram school to close down after a surprise inspection. Its decision was vehemently opposed.

“We don't like the Olympic Math, but we want to attend good schools and universities,” students told the inspecting officials before running the inspectors off the campus.

Parents rushed to the school to talk with the officials and justify their children's attendance.

“If our kids don't attend these classes, how can they enter the the best high schools and universities?” they said.

Their attitude reeks of desperation.

I believe the popularity of Olympic Math cram classes is due to an imbalance of educational resources.

The nation may have enough public schools and universities – even a few private ones – but their quality is very inconsistent.

Most of the best teachers and facilities are concentrated in the few famous schools, forcing students to compete for access to education from a very early age.

The best schools usually have a higher percentage of graduates heading to university. Students see extra cram sessions as a useful tool to boost their odds of entering one of the better schools.

The only effective solution



Illustrated by Chen Bing

is to balance our education resources, especially improving the quality of the teaching environment to remove the

need for extracurricular cram courses.

This is the only type of government intervention that

will be effective.

– Tian Gengshuo, Red Scarf News Agency, Jingnan Branch

What do they care about?



Military exercises a must for teenagers

In China, students must attend compulsory military training during their first year of junior middle school, senior high school and university.

The boring and hard exercise is something most teens dread.

“Standing at ease and at attention, goose stepping and a blazingly hot sun are the memories that make up military exercises,” many students write.

Life at military camp is simple and far removed from luxury and parental care.

The stern training officers and new friends are memories that remain throughout life.

Collectivism

I learned the concept of collectivism through military training. We shared in honor and failure and tried our best for the sake of the group. Collectivism is about sharing in hardship – not only glory.

– Cao Yuqin, Red Scarf News Agency, Dongcheng Branch

Seriousness

At the start, my classmates and I dreaded military training. It seemed like a pointless exercise in hardship. But when the week of exercises ended, we found we had become a tight group and

learned the military spirit of working together.

– Sun Yu, Red Scarf News Agency, Xicheng Branch

Insist

One morning we were required to stand and practice in the hot morning sun. Heavy rains followed lunch, but our instructor still sent us outside to practice. Most of us were complaining and came close to crying. When we returned to our beds that night, we found them warmer and more comfortable than ever.

– Zhang Qianqian, Red Scarf News Agency,

Chaoyang Branch

Thanksgiving

We were moved by our training officer, a soldier no more than five years older than us. He was so serious about every detail, forcing us to stand in the hot sun for hours, teaching us mili-

tary songs on and clapping for us when we were honored.

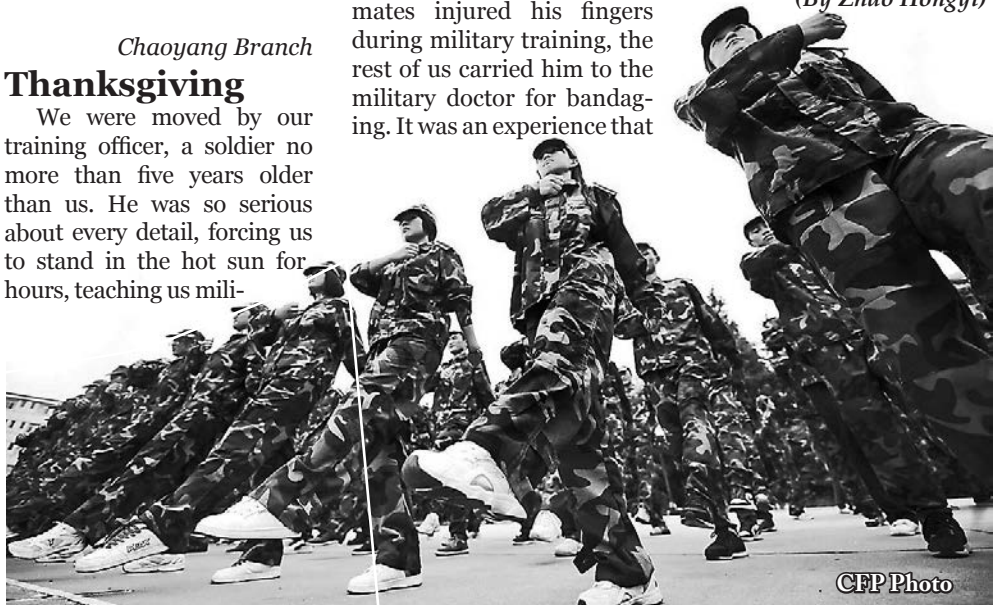
– Liu Kang, Red Scarf News Agency, Daxing Branch

Warm care

When one of our classmates injured his fingers during military training, the rest of us carried him to the military doctor for bandaging. It was an experience that

taught us we need to be able to rely on ourselves – our parents can't be around to solve every problem.

– Sun Yiqing, Red Scarf News Agency, Jingnan Branch (By Zhao Hongyi)



CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

Although we like carpets from the German brand Rug Star for their quality and arty edge, the average price starts from 100,000 yuan, which is out of most consumers' budget.

This week, Rug Star Beijing is releasing another brand, Floor to Heaven, aimed at consumers who are searching for fashionable carpets at affordable prices.

Floor to Heaven was founded by carpet designer Michael Schleyen, who was raised in a carpet-making family.

Twenty years ago, Schleyen began working in a carpet company with an office in Hong Kong and factories in Shenzhen. She eventually decided to make carpets that are "not like any others," and founded the brand in 2006.

Schleyen is an energetic and passionate textile and carpet designer. Her carpet designs have won many awards, and been featured in magazines like *Elle Decoration*, *Architectural Digest* and *ID Magazine*.

Her carpets have strong patterns and bold colors mixed with a variety of materials.

For example, one piece is full of small denim-wrapped balls that look like embroidered pearls. It almost looks too delicate to walk on, but Schleyen said that's not the case at all – denim is strong and tough.

Most carpets are made of wool and natural materials. A practical choice for indoors is the soft and wool carpets, which are warm and homey. Pointing at a carpet with well-cut small blue dots, Schleyen said, "Some people are worried about whether it's safe to walk on with heels, but it's totally fine."

The brand also has carpets for outdoor use, with average prices ranging from 30,000 to 40,000 yuan. They also accept customized orders for different sizes and patterns.

Anyone interested can visit the showroom at Xiangxiang Zaisheji Exhibition Hall of 751 D-Park Plaza in 798 Art District.

To purchase, contact Rugstar Beijing

Where: Soho-Beijing Residence, 5 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 8447 4278

Floor to Heaven



The brand also has cushions made of the same materials as the carpets.



Wood heart-shaped carpet



Oriental patterns



Silk carpet has a luxury feel.

Photos provided by Floor to Heaven

Special milk tea at Touch Woman Café

By Guo Yao

Touch Woman Café, located in a courtyard just south of Yonghegong Lama Temple, has undergone six months. The new interior is French style, with vintage garnish and furniture from abroad.

The owners, Xiao Chuying and Zhao Jing, are now ready to show off their place.

The café's specialty is milk tea (28 to 38 yuan). Green tea with rock salt cheese (32 yuan for hot, 35 yuan for cold) stands out among the "classics." The taste is salty at first from the thick salted cheese, but it ends up being aromatic, much like tea, from the selected maccha. Vanilla milk tea, coconut milk tea and Hong Kong-style milk tea are available at the same price.

Customers are often fascinated by the four combinations of milk tea and organic plant tea (35 yuan for hot, 38 yuan for cold), found only here. Organic blueberry rooibos milk tea is made of South African rooibos, Taiwan Ceylon tea and wild blueberries. Calendula caramel rooibos milk tea is flavorful. Canadian lucerne white milk tea mingles white tea and wild rose, lavender and molly. Orange and mint chai milk tea contains deep-colored berries like cherries, cranberries and blueberries, which is refreshing and delightful.

The owner said the above four drinks are results of thousands of tests to get the flavors just right.

Thailand milk tea (32 yuan for hot, 36 yuan for cold) is also recommended.

For dessert, muffins with ice cream and fruit (35 yuan) are highly recommended. Coffee starts at 42 yuan. Herbal tea (from 35 yuan to 38 yuan) is well worth trying, too.

A second part of this courtyard with old train seats will open in August. As Touch Woman is also a cosmetic brand founded by Xiao, customers are welcome to try some of the skin care products that are available.

Touch Woman Café

Where: 38 Beixin Hutong, Yonghegong Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 1 pm – midnight
Tel: 8400 1928



Milk tea, original from Guangzhou, gets popular in Beijing.



Milk tea and organic plant tea, 35 yuan



Inside Touch Woman Café

Photos by Guo Yao/CFP

Good Hunan cuisine at good prices

By Annie Wei

People are liable to crave hot and spicy dishes even in the summer. But instead of Sichuan hotpot's numbing spice, try Hunan cuisine, also called *xiangcai*, known for its different varieties of flavorful peppers.

Experienced diners say the best Hunan restaurants are always small and tucked within communities. Their locations may keep some people away, but they help preserve quality and authenticity.

Baimili is one of these restaurants, located at Jiaodaokou South near the Central Academy of Drama.

Fu Rong, the owner, worked in the movie industry before opening the restaurant in 2010. It has become a popular spot among young people.

Fu works alongside her mother and sister, and all the cooks are from her hometown in Hunan Province.

Unlike many Hunan restaurants that rework their dishes to accommodate Beijing tastes, Baimili maintains an authentic Hunan style. Fu makes sure her dishes are exactly like those back home.

There are some common dishes such as bullfrog stewed with bitter melon in clay pot (68 yuan) that can be used to test a Hunan restaurant's quality; Nice Rice passes with flying colors. The clay pot keeps the food warm, while the sauce is mixed with a variety of chili flavors that make every bite exciting.

Steamed fish head with chili pepper (68 yuan) is another must-have. To keep the fish fresh and to avoid waste, the restaurant only cooks a certain number per day. Cut into two pieces, the fish head is cooked with two kinds of chili. Diners can experience two flavors in one dish. The taste is soft and smooth, and the sauce isn't too spicy.

As for vegetables, cauliflower stir-fried in a clay pot (26 yuan) is good to try. The flavor may be a little strong, but it goes well with rice.

The restaurant is cozy. The counter contains a variety of wines and liquors, from local baijiu to imported red wine.

The restaurant has a second floor with a balcony that is used for dinner parties.

Baimili

Where: 79, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11:30 am – 10:30 pm
Tel: 6407 9619



Stewed pig feet in a clay pot, 68 yuan



Steamed fish head with chili pepper, 68 yuan

CFP Photos

Dining

Wagyu beef promotion at Crowne Plaza Beijing

Tired of eating at uninspired buffets? This July, Cafe on the 6th of Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town breaks the monotony of buffet dining by offering Wagyu beef as part of its selection.

Wagyu beef contains the finely distributed and highly desirable levels of marbling sought after by many of the world's most celebrated chefs. Cafe's Executive Chef Percy said the Wagyu produced by Darling Downs, Australia has a superb texture and unique depth of flavor.

Born and raised in a naturally green and safe environment, Darling Downs Wagyu cattle are certified as free from hormonal growth promotants.

From July 2 to 13, journey into the open kitchen of C6 and relish in a culinary experience



that can only be described as extraordinary. Explore the quality of Wagyu at our carving station and buffet tables. Delicately prepared a la carte options are also available.

Located on the 6th Floor of Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, Café on the 6th

is an all-day dining restaurant featuring an elaborate buffet of Pan-Asian and Western favorites made from the freshest of ingredients.

Where: C6, Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng Bei Li, Chaoyang District
When: July 2-13
Tel: 5909 6688 ext. 3219



Discover the arts of Aria

Aria at the China World Hotel, Beijing presents a sumptuous three-course dinner menu on weekends with a choice of three starters, three main courses and three desserts for 250 yuan per person.

Where: Aria, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Daijie, Chaoyang District

Cost: 250 yuan per person (15 percent gratuity)
Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 36

Chaozhou feasts

Freshness and quality are the characters that define Chaozhou cuisine. Indulge in as many delightful Chaozhou dishes as you wish, including deep-fried crab meat and shrimp maw balls wrapped in tofu skin, fried scallops and chicken balls with peppers and vegetables and stewed Liao sea cucumber with home-made condiments.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Daijie, Chaoyang District

When: July 1-31
Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 34



Summer breeze afternoon tea

The Lobby Lounge serves one of Beijing's best afternoon teas with a good selection of delectable sandwiches, enticing pastries and miniature scones best enjoyed with a cup of classic tea during the leisure hours of a sunny afternoon. The lounge's beautiful interior is decorated in the style of the imperial palace and has live classical music.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Daijie, Chaoyang District

When: July 1-31
Cost: 298 yuan (15 percent gratuity)
Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 37



Hotel

Global expansion fuels Marriott's earning

Leading hotel operator Marriott International said today it is on track to have 4,000 hotels in 90 countries in its 14-brand portfolio by 2014.

With 115,000 hotel rooms in its development pipeline, it could open between 90,000 and 105,000 new rooms around the world in 2012 through 2014, not including the planned Gaylord acquisition.

In a presentation at its first meeting in China for security analysts and institutional investors, Marriott also said it expects to open more than 100 hotels in nine brands and nearly 40 markets in China by 2014.

Assuming 6 to 8 percent compound growth in worldwide system-wide Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) for 2012 through 2014, and diluted earnings per share (EPS) could reach

\$2.45 (15.6 yuan) to \$2.85 in 2014.

Discussing its operating model, the company said it can generate between \$1.8 billion and \$1.9 billion in worldwide fee revenue through 2014, assuming compound worldwide system-wide RevPAR growth of 6 to 8 percent.

Given the strong cash flow, Marriott assumes investment spending of \$2.6 billion to \$2.8 billion from 2012 through 2014. The company expects to recycle \$800 million to \$1 billion of capital during the period. Assuming this level of net investment, a 6 to 8 percent RevPAR growth scenario and new debt issuances, the company could have \$4.0 billion to \$4.7 billion to return to investors or deploy in additional opportunistic investments over the next three years.

Hutong heritage

The Peninsula Beijing is introducing a Hutong Heritage package for Chinese culture lovers. With hotel accommodations and an in-depth hutong tour, the package gives guests a chance to see Beijing's living history from a new angle and to explore the heart of Beijing.

On a rickshaw ride through the city's historic hutong district, participants will learn about these traditional courtyard homes and walled gardens from a professor of Chinese architectural history. A visit to a private museum to learn about the finer points of Chinese antiques is also

included.

The package rate costs 2,150 yuan (plus 15 percent gratuity) per room per night. It includes accommodations for two in a Grand Deluxe room; daily buffet breakfast for two; round-trip airport transportation; and an in-depth hutong tour for two.

A minimum three-night stay is requested, and the tour must be arranged at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

Where: The Peninsula Beijing, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing Daijie, Dongcheng District

When: Until August 31
Tel: 8516 2888 ext. 6621



(By Zhang Nan)

Fri, Jun. 29



Nightlife

Los Crasher: Train Kept a Rolling

This is Los Crasher's second concert tour to promote its recently released EP, *Train Kept a Rolling*. Members are lead singer Voolcano, guitarists Junky and Liang Zhan, bassist Boas and drummer Qiang Zi. Their music resembles blues, punk, glam and classic rock.

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30-11:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080 or 13436318870

Movie

Frankenstein

Written for the stage by Nick Dear, *Frankenstein* was one of the most critically acclaimed plays by the National Theater of London last year. Director Danny Boyle's movie adaptation is coming to Beijing.

Where: Building T4, MOMA North

District, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 7:30-10 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8438 8202



Sat, Jun. 30

Exhibition Photography exhibition of Pere Ibanez

Domestic violence is the theme of these works by Spanish artist Pere Ibanez, who shows how violence in the family spreads to society. His new book is *The Leftovers*.

Where: Building T4, MOMA North District, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: Everyday until Jul 15, 3-6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 6920 / 6913



Exhibition

Original ukiyo-e exhibition from Japanese masters

Ukiyo-e – literally, “pictures of the floating world” – integrates classicism, impressionism and post-impressionism. Exhibited works are original prints from more than 200 years ago.

Where: 4D1 Building A, Hairun

Mon, Jul. 2

Guoji Gongyu, Yi 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every day until July 15, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5247 6992



Tue, Jul. 3



Salon

Beijing Posthastism

At the end of last year, Hans Ulrich Obrist founded a new movement called “Posthastism” with the curators and writers Shumon Basar and Joseph Grima. The movement is based on what they describe as a “sudden feeling

of posthaste”: a collective impetus to decelerate.

Where: 2503 Building 2B, Pingguo Shequ Bei Qu, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every day until July 22, 3-7 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5826 3440

Wed, Jul. 4

Nightlife

Americana Jam of Liu Yusi and Randy Abel

To celebrate US Independence Day, the lead singer of the American folk band The Randy Abel Stable, Randy Abel, will join guitarist Liu Yusi to play covers of The Byrds, Gram Parsons, Hank Williams and Merle Haggard, plus original songs.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9-11:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6401 5269

Performance

Nutcracker Magic

Performed by the Tianjin Acrobatics Troupe, the show will come to Beijing's Poly Theater on July 20 and 21.

Based on the classic ballet by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, this show combines ballet, magic and acrobatics, with high-tech stage lighting and audio.

This performance was given last year in Shanghai, and this year it



will travel to Tianjin and Guangzhou in addition to Beijing.

When: 7 pm, July 20 and 21

Where: Poly Theater, 14, Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dong Erhuan Lu, Dongcheng District

Price: 100, 200, 300, 400 yuan
Tel: 6506 5343 / 5345

Drama

Richard III

To memorialize 60 years since the founding of Beijing People's Art Theater, the China National

Drama Theater will perform Shakespeare's *Richard III*, directed by Wang Xiaoying. The main performers are Zhang Dongyu, Wu Xiaodong, Chen Qiang and She Nannan.

Where: Beijing People's Art Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Every day until July 8, 7:30-11:30 pm

Admission: To be determined
Tel: 6512 1598

Sun, Jul. 1



Lecture

Literature-Society-Stage

As part of the Penghao Drama Festival, Literature-Society-Stage is a workshop presented by Ruth Kanner, artistic director of the Ruth Kanner Theater Group.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 1:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6400 6472

Stage Play

Korean stage play

The performing troupe, formed in 1992 in South Korea, will combine 10 programs that are five to 10 minutes in length, including music, dance and magic.

Where: Building B, Dongfang Meidiya Zhongxin, 4 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every day except Monday until July 12, 7:30-9:30 pm

Admission: 90-680 yuan
Tel: 4008 802 880

Thu, Jul. 5



Movie

Easy Rider

This is an existentialist road movie full of confusion, rebellion and tragedy. The lead character travels across prairies, mountains and lakes in the western US. This film won the Golden Laurel Award (now called the Pro-

ducers Guild of America Award).

Where: Yufeng Shuguan, 7 Dong Damochang Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 7-9:30 pm
Admission: 25 yuan
Tel: 6708 7470

(By Liu Xiaochen)

15

Next week

Editor: Zhao Hongyi Designer: Deng Ning

BEIJING TODAY

A bite of Yangzhou

By Zhao Hongyi

Located in the middle of Jiangsu Province, Yangzhou has long been an important transport hub, thanks to its location on the bank of the Grand Canal, which used to be the best way to transport farm produce from the south to the north.

A century ago, Yangzhou was also important for its salt trade. When that waned, the city became a second-, and then third-tier city.

But its reputation may be getting revitalized. In the CCTV documentary *A Bite of China*, Yangzhou cuisine was described as splendid, and ranked at the top for its ingredients and the skills of its chefs.

Shouxihu Park

During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the Qianlong Emperor (1711-1799) toured Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces six times, and Yangzhou was one of the few big cities in which he liked to stay.

In those years, Yangzhou was a prosperous city next to the Grand Canal, with many salt tycoons.

The riches attained from trading salt went into the construction of many small parks along the canal, and eventually the construction of Shouxihu Park (Thin West Lake, after Hangzhou's famous West Lake), specifically for the emperor to stay in.

Wuting Bridge (Five Pavilion Bridge) still stands as the most prominent landmark inside the park. Deep in one of the corners is also a white Tibetan Pagoda.

Ge Yuan Park

This used to be a private park rich with bamboo stalks, a favorite of ancient scholars and celebrities.

Though small, there are many small rooms and spaces to explore, showing off the architectural skills of the ancient Chi-

nese, who created rooms within rooms using limited space.

It's one of the four officially recognized "ancient Chinese parks," along with the Summer Palace in Beijing, the Chengde Summer Resort in Hebei Province and Zhuozhengyuan Park in Jiangsu Province.

Grand Canal

The Grand Canal is one of the greatest works of mankind, and possibly only second to the Great Wall in Chinese engineering accomplishments (or third, depending on who you ask, to Li Bing's Dujiangyan Irrigation System in Sichuan Province).

Today, much of the canal has dried up, but the part in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces remain an important transportation route, connecting many towns and cities.

The canal runs through the eastern part of Yangzhou. Thousands of boats, large and small, run on the canal.

Today, the Grand Canal has a new purpose: to carry water from the Yangtze River Basin to northern China to ease the water shortages there.

Dishes: Yangzhou is the origin of Huaiyang cuisine, which is one of the eight major cuisines of China. Common ingredients include meats and freshwater fish, shrimp and crabs. The cuisine is ideal for who have time to relax and appreciate the courses.

Egg-fried rice

Rice is fried with many ingredients, including pudding from bamboo roots, pork, ham, horse beans, carrots, corn and other vegetables. It's called "gold wrapped silver" in the native dialect.

Boiled bean curd

Shredded dry tofu is boiled with threads of ginger, egg, bamboo, jelly fungus, mushroom, *youcai*, shrimp, pork and other foods (whatever you want, really). It is served with breakfast tea and ideal to eat with rice during lunch and dinner.

Steamed crab oil Chinese dumplings

Yellow crab oil is mixed with chopped meat and used as filling. It can be wrapped in several different ways and steamed for 15 minutes.



The Great Canal



Ge Yuan Park



Old Pedestrian Road

How to get there:

Take train Z29 at 9:36 pm and arrive in Yangzhou at 7:39 the next morning.

Or take Air China flight 1841 at 7:30 am and arrive at Yangzhou at 9 am.

When to travel:

Year-round, but it's particularly nice during March and April.

Accommodations:

There are many hotels and youth hotels available in Yangzhou.



The Five Pavilion Bridge